

Comments recorded by Department staff at the August 25th, 2007 public input meeting – Rest Lake Dam

50 cubic feet per second is not in the order. Why is it being mandated?

How is this being measured – flow rate?

Island Lake – can't use boat – track lift – can't float the boat – can't get off shore station.

Island Lake North Shore – 60 foot pier, added 8 feet – 23 inch water depth – can't navigate 22 foot boat – can't get gasoline out it will go stale.

Concern about the operation – Why changes this summer?

Why is there no concern for the natural resources of the Chain?

Would like to see stable levels – long range.

What is the economic impact to the community and state tax collection?

Too much water on Vance Lake – Can't use launch on Rest Lake.

Little Manitowish, 150 – No water, 200 – 6 inches

Why was operation changed this year?

Continuing to let water out and draining the chain.

Fawn Lake – Can't get boat out of storage.

Water level at 10 inches at end of pier on Fawn Lake.

Two weeks ago the navigation was fine on the Manitowish while on the chain you can't navigate.

Talked to the canoe livery – no problems.

Woody's Mobile Marine substantial loss of income, several boats could not be launched. Boats are not repaired or maintained. Full impact won't be known until Dec. 1st

Woody's Mobile Marine – boats are stuck on lift how will they get them off?

Boats not being used will cause more problems.

Why launch boats when they can't use them?

Piers and shore stations – extended and still can't be used.

Need dredging on Clear -> Fawn even after the water comes up.

Need to remove stumps in navigation channel Fawn – Stone.

What does the DNR want? Is it sturgeon?

Why can't the State raise sturgeon?

Sturgeon should not an issue. No one is worried about them.

Why is the water being lowered this year when at the previous meeting people were told no changes – deception.

Why draw down winter 3 ½ feet? Causes spawning problems.

Draw down should only be 1 foot.

Should capture spring runoff.

Should follow the minimum in the order.

Don't have enough reservoir capacity to operate.

Fixed spillway is the answer.

Why don't we buy the dam & operate run of river?

Who does DNR report to?

Why is being operated differently this year?

Why is Vance as low as the chain?

Who do I write to to apologize for sending our water to flooded southern Wisconsin?

What happened this year is that property value is lower – this will impact the off-water low income people.

Why are we doing this now?

Why is the Dam being lowered this year?

The reason the water is lower because in 2005 the Fish Trap dam.

Can't navigate inlet to Rest. Can't get to Clear Lake, Fawn, Island.

Bought property with the expectation, to use it – now it's changing.

Should not be discharging 50 cubic feet per second when not that much is coming into the chain.

Papoose Bay – no water, also Wild Rice was planted 30 years ago by conservation organization. Brought in muck couldn't navigate.

DNR's image is trash because of the lack of communication.

Why can't we operate the way we always have until the WEPA process is done?

Should have gauging on this system. We are using 1903 technology.

If we looking after the environment the tourism economy will fine.

Isolated lakes impact property values.

Can't get out of bay.

Can't fish – should get a refund.

Pay taxes for water front – should get it refunded.

Downstream does not experience drought this year.

Wet boat house can't boats out – Alder Lake.

Reducing the acreage of the chain by thousands of acres.

Need to extend the dock DNR does not want long docks.

Can only navigate Stone, Spider to Manitowish, the rest isolated.

Max 23 canoes in Vance, often only 2 or 3 – Compared to how much the Chain is used.

Why does the water have to be lowered in the winter?

Clear Lake is isolated.

Sturgeon – the whole issue is about sturgeon. Why is that important?

People are canceling vacations.

Little Star – Won't put boat in. Won't invest in a boat.

Business – Tourism is impacted. People won't comeback. Will go to Bayfield.

Fewer Sturgeon – what about the aquatic life?

Island Lake – Can't get out of wet boat house.

Didn't buy fishing licenses – 20 people.

Why did we change this year when in June they said they wouldn't ?

Papoose Bay – got permit to remove weeds & stumps (\$75,000) shallow water has caused more weeds. Can't get weed cutter if water is not full – can't get weed cutter in at 8 feet.

Would like to see changes in winter operation OK.

Spider & Island Lake – The boats are hitting rocks. No skiing.

People don't have a choice to go elsewhere when they own property.

Owned property for 30 years. Water skiing is an important recreation. The draw down now is unacceptable.

Don't care about fish / sturgeon. Property value is paramount. It's is unlawful for government to take away property rights.

Privatization of the water.

More than sturgeon are impacted by low water downstream – look at the total ecosystem.

Need to live by the laws.

Increased boating accidents peoples lives are endangered.

Government should compensate for loss property value (although they should not be taking property rights).

Excessive weed growth caused by low water detracts from swimming / skiing.

Downstream property owners knew the operating regime – they should not demand changes now.

Little Star wet boat house dry 150 ft to water.

Bay on north shore of Little Star full of wildlife, otters, herons, waterfowl, fish. The weeds are so thick – no wildlife. Noxious weeds are coming.

How should the recent (~15 years ago) (illegal, detrimental) introduction of wild rice into the Rice Creek Flowage be addressed?

Is there a contingency plan to reflect continued drought?

The process being followed is in violation of WEPA.

How was the 50 cubic feet per second (cubic feet per second) value arrived at?

Did the 50 cubic feet per second (cubic feet per second) take into account the interests of the people on the chain?

How can the operation of the dam be drastically changed with out studies being performed?

Would a return to height water levels required pier extensions to be extracted?

Will there be tax relief due to reduction in property value?

Can trees be cut to facilitate pier removal if water is left high?

Is the new shoreline going to be permanent and would the new shoreline be reflected in deeds?

Will piers be allowed to be lengthened?

Dredging of channels between the lakes – will DNR provide?

Why did the DNR wait 40 years to enforce the order? Based on the concerns of 10 – 15 downstream people?

How are operations of the Fishtrap Dam impacting flow into the Manitowish River?

Has lack of water in the Ladysmith/Park Falls area contributed to the demand of flow from the chain?

Will marker buoys be adjusted to reflect lower water levels?

With potential, future higher flows will the demand of flow passed from the chain also increase?

Who will determine the location of wetland boundaries at lower water levels?

Who will determine the OHWM at lower water levels?

Will shoreland setbacks change?

How will new water levels impact navigation & piers? Can grants be provided for channel dredging?

How will new water levels impact wetlands and waterfowl and native species?

Stone & Fawn lake wetland is dry; spawning area. How will it be impacted? Wildlife impacts?

Is the current drawdown of 3.5 adversely impacting the wetlands in the fall and the spring?

The burdens of drought condition should be equally shared on the wetlands upstream and downstream.

Concerned about wildlife impacts to loon, eagle, ducks, heron, geese. Lives on Island Lake in a shallow bay (designated flowage) and is concerned it is negatively impacting wildlife species. Also concerned about fish spawning habitat.

Does the Federal Govt. exert pressure on DNR to keep up water levels in the Turtle Flambeau Flowage?

Why wasn't this issue addressed when it was raised by downstream persons ~ 10 years ago?

Could an independent hydrologist, acceptable to all involved, be retained to arrive at the final operating order?

Will the comments be weighted by the number of people expressing that concern?

What will be done once the winter operating level is reached? Will the chain continue to be drawn down?

How will low and/or high fluctuating water levels be addressed to protect aquatic ecosystems?

Could the chain be held at a constant max. and then be run as a run of the river operation?

Can the chain be maintained without the fall drawdown?

Will the capacity of the dam be accurately monitored?

How did the construction of the Turtle Flambeau Flowage impact the sturgeon spawning run in the Manitowish River?

Concerned about shallow bay. Sand is building up and closing off musky spawning area and loss of wildlife habitat.

Concerned about low water levels in Papoose Bay, that it is filling in with sediment and vegetation. At normal water levels they use a harvester- can not get or use harvester during low water levels. Is concerned with having the water level at least 6 – inches or lower.

Is concerned about Fish Trap dam (upstream) and how it is operated, in stream flows into chain.

Concerned about low water downstream / upstream creating blasto conditions.

Keep water levels on Manitowish Waters chain to allow access by boat to all lakes (chain).

Concerned about chain levels and effects on cranberry harvest, irrigation, and frost protection.

If it's not coming in (flow), why are we letting it out (downstream)?

Concerned about impacts of wild rice taking over on the chain.

Concerned about wetland impacts on the chain (upstream), drying out.

More water stored in chain in the winter would be fine – but not if it all gets released in the spring for sturgeon.

How do low water levels affect property values & taxation? How affect off water taxpayers (do they pick up slack)?

\$629,000,000 fair market value is being affected on the chain.

Owner lives in shallow bay, is concerned about very low water levels. Had to walk through muck to get into canoe to pull the 12 ft motor boat to get to the channel.

Water Quality of watershed below the dam.

Is there annual, single flow rate that would be beneficial to downstream habitat?

Is it easier to manage the river by maintaining the flowage (chain) at a constant level (e.g. full pool)?

What about the habitat impacts upstream of the chain (rivers), including the chain?

Concerned that there has been no environmental studies above the dam, including wetlands.

Why aren't you preserving the (5) water sources to the chain e.g. Papoose, Rice, Manitowish River, Trout River, and

Are they going to be lowering our taxes (property)?

Is DNR going to change pier requirement of 3 foot water depth?

In shallow inlet areas, how can we get our boat in and out?

Why aren't residents being informed, in advance, of the changes in the water level?

What is the source of weeds washing up on the shoreline?

If the chain was now drawn down would that help keep the chain water level at full pool?

You're located on Wild Rice Lake and is concerned because they can not get or have access to the rest of the chain because of low water levels. Main concern is value of property is being lowered and feels taxes should be adjusted because of low levels.

Concerned about clearing channels of stumps & boulders to make them navigable or somehow marking hazards or channels, whether it's low or high water.

Did the regulated outlet flows exceed 25% of the natural inlet flows of 2007?

The chain takes a long time to fill, why do they release water so fast in the fall?

Been on the chain since 1963 and the water level has only been low one time until this year. The dam operation has been the same, why has it changed?

The dam has been in operation for the last 80 years, why do they want to change it now? Real estate values and fisheries are being impacted.

If the operation levels of the dam are lowered how long will it take to re-establish the OHWM (ordinary high water mark)? How long will it take to have wetlands convert to upland? And who is responsible for all the habitat loss.

Eminent Domain – We've had these rights DNR should not be able to take them away.

DNR's responsibility should not be concerned with 5 million citizens but rather with citizens whose property values are impacted.

Property values impacted. \$7,000 of rip-rap. Can't use the property.

Sturgeon are having problems across the state. It should be irrelevant.

Water on Vance Lake has never been as high.

More water going out of the dam than is coming in.

Can't rely on DNR.

Use air plane to take air photos.

Satellite pictures.

Unfair to upstream.

What is weight to down vs upstream.?

Do we know what's coming in vs what's going out?

Cranberry withdrawals.

Water is flowing out (upstream) during cranberry pumping.

20 years – never this bad.

1987 – 88 was a bad year.

Rock bars – Wild rice. No skiing – no fishing. Had to remove big boat in July.

What is happening with shorelands?

Fish kill – June caused by low water.

Need a win-win solution.

Look at historical operation.

Why do something different?

What will the water level be if there is no snow?

Town line boat landing has been damaged by low waters – power loading.

Greer had 40-60 boats that were never put in.

Manitowish (north side) can't navigate – dry boat house with track.

1 foot of water level = 4 – 5 feet more shoreline Manitowish north side.

Shoreline protection – 6 inch drop would be OK. Can't tolerate 1 foot or more.

What is the purpose of winter draw down?

Disabled person can't get to pontoon boat.

Sturgeon are a canary in the mine.

Are other chains impacted by this? Do they follow the same rules?

Down stream is getting more than their fair share this year.

Can't sell property on the Little Manitowish. Love the house but no water.

Papoose Creek low due to dam operation.

Rice Creek at HWY K dry (backwater from dam not there).

Wants legal basis for DNR's determination for flow over dam & what were DNR's staff names.

Upstream upper end (SE corner) where Manitowish River comes in – Wild Rice taking over! (none in 1961). Also Manitowish River, Rice Cr, & Papoose Cr. & Trout River between Alder & Wild Rice.

Can't use shore station ~31 inches down.

Affect of High Lake & Fish Trap dam? Redone.

Fish & Wildlife above dam – spawning (every aspect) complete study.

Eradicate weeds – milfoil.

Maintain full pool & run of river.

Establish drought flows – keep same flow (unknown word)

Get North Central Regional Planning Commission involved.

Look at leaving water up all year round or possibly lower it less to be better able to handle/ deal with drought.

Access impact to birds, insects, habitat above the dam as it relates to water level

Sturgeon observed in Benson Lake 20 – 24 inches to 4 feet long.

At last public meeting (Sen. Breske meeting) – DNR said no changes until after impact study – deceptive.

Concern about lack of public awareness of changes made to dam operation, which affected the lake level & navigation.

Wild rice between Alder & Wild Rice Lakes is navigation & access to pier issue!

Is there proof that sturgeon has ever reproduced below dam?

Don't draw the lakes down.

Hold the spring thaw in lakes.

Fast drawdown in the chain in fall has caused damage downstream to property & critters

Everybody should share "pain" during drought.

Concern about winter damage to old seawalls & dry boathouse & wet boathouses. 30's-40's fieldstone with mortar & top shelf.

Shoreline erosion.

All permanent piers put in believing dam operation wouldn't change. Made chain unique.

If changes are proposed, need to show why & convince lake property owners.

What downstream is floodplain?

Downstream owners want their property values to rise. They knew what they were buying. If they don't like it, they should have bought above the dam.

Health of ecosystem is most important (also see submitted paper).

DNR doing things & making changes because they can (have power!).

Perception that DNR has decision made from higher up- already done deal.

H2O levels mis-managed past 2 yrs. i.e. discharge increase during drought. Winter drawdown extreme – could be 1 foot less.

DNR needs to let people know what is being done & provide the justification. Specific action (studies: dam changes?)(or others)

DNR shouldn't rely on media to tell DNR's story. (need to be able to get info to property owners not here full time)

Provide some “certainty” for operations.

What is the chain potential to support sturgeon?

Hold info sessions (face to face) to update individual property owners.

Not everyone has computers.

Current operation of Rest Lake Dam has a negative effect on downstream fish/wildlife values by reversing the natural order (low H2O in spring).

Enjoy watching sturgeon jump in Benson Lake. Why do they jump?

Leave dam operation exactly as it has been.

Cranberry operation withdrawal – what is amount & is it appropriate?

Safety of water sports on lakes.

Wild Rice Lake – green scum on H2O surface.

Southeast portion of Man. Lake – black algae floating to shore.

Look at providing flow in spring for sturgeon & then drop flow downstream.

Need to recognize nature & drought conditions affect all rivers, lakes, streams, & ponds.

Not concerned about sturgeon.

Study effects of more H2O in river than “normal”.

Sturgeon life cycle explanation. Could redhorse eat sturgeon eggs? Could other things like water flow harm reproduction?

Downstream does not have water – down at least 12-14 inches – bottom out in kayak – down from Hawk's nest. Can't judge by looking at bridge.

Not upstream vs. downstream – we're all hurting. Doesn't like divisiveness.

At present water levels people are unable to navigate the chain.

Why does DNR want to eliminate navigation between lakes?

Will low water levels affect shallow wells?

Need to store more water in flowage over winter.

Install wing dams in river below Rest Lake dam to create deeper channel to help recreation and navigation.

Low water effecting wells also.

During low water, hazards aren't marked and other markers are high & dry & should be moved.

Low water affects frontage, hurt property values.

No water in bay on Island Lake.

People – non property owners – using exposed lake bed as a beach during low water levels.

Not able to access boat because low water level (Trout River Alder/ Manitowish).
Pontoon boat.

Can't recreate (use their piers) when water levels are too low. Piers are high and dry.

If piers were extended, navigation would be obstructed (especially in channel areas).

Cost of extending piers is prohibitive.

Can't extend pier in channel areas because it would extend to shore across channel.

Couldn't get boat through channel (Clear/Fawn).

Couldn't get boat out of Clear Lake.

People want better communication (ahead of time) if water levels are lowered. (Traps boats on boat lifts)

Hard getting into Alder Lake from Trout River from Manitowish Lake. Due to low water, same from Stone into Fawn.

Concerned about stumps, rocks, etc. in channels.

Will a change in the high water mark cause a change in setbacks?

Once high water mark is established it should stay that way forever.

How are people suppose to plan for future use dock/raft/pier?

How is DNR going to address injuries related to exposure of dead heads?

During low water (present conditions) boats can't navigate the chain. Dangerous in case water rescue needs to be performed.

Weed growth worst seen on chain.

Any change (drop in water) from normal summer levels effects many boathouses. Unable to use even in slight drops.

Should get property tax relief due to low water.

Concerned present chain level is the level that chain will be kept at in the future.

Navigation and recreation downstream needs to be considered. Balance needs above & below dam.

This issue is not about piers, it is about appropriate management of aquatic systems.

Would like to see level back up and left at that level.

Why wasn't an environmental impact study done before the discharge was changed from 30 – 50 cubic feet per second causing a lowering of water levels above the dam?

The DNR should have communicated to all citizens when they asked Excel to change flow from 30 to 50 cubic feet per second.

Don't give a damn about native sturgeon populations.

We want DNR budget reduced proportional to the low water on Clear Lake & Manitowish Chain.

By not reducing water level by full 3.5 feet in winter navigation in spring & fall would be better.

Is there increase threat for invasive aquatics from fluctuations in water levels?

What is flow (cubic feet per second) leaving Clear Lake? Did anyone study?

Confusing / conflicting info from DNR v.s. Lake Association – What's the truth?

Not seeing frogs – where they used to be is dry – will helping sturgeon hurt other wildlife?

Hasn't the wildlife / fish adjusted after 70 years? Won't changing things now hurt them? What about upriver?

Why do we take spawn from "our" walleyes, put them in the Woodruff hatchery and not return them to us? Fish that are raised that way are too aggressive –why take them?
Important Act on this!

Will lower water levels affect walleye spawning?

How will water level changes affect the loons or other aquatic wildlife?

On Clear Lake there have been many more small fish, few trophies.

Think it's due to the increased weeds in the lake and lower lake level.

What about all the wildlife in the swamps that have dried up?

Sturgeon was never an issue in regard to the dam, why now? Why so urgent this summer?

Why is DNR so concerned about planting sturgeon below Rest Lake dam while it's destroying the walleye and musky populations above the dam?

Why is DNR destroying fishery above the dam for the benefit below the dam?

Wild rice seems to be doing well in some areas where it didn't before and worse in some others. Much of the shoreline that never was weedy in the past is now.

Concerned that water levels will be too low in Papoose Bay to get the weed cutter in.

We'll be changing the natural flow rate v.s. a steady level.

DNR is trying to take our water away.

Navigation problems with sand bars forming in channels. DNR isn't addressing this.

On Little Manitowish the birds (ducks, etc.) haven't nested due to low water levels.

Will take decades for the exposed lake bed to revegetate.

Handicapped and can't get into his boat with low water levels.

What is the DNR doing about improving the fisheries in the lake(s)? Are we taking positive action to restock the chain?

The chain of lakes is gone.

How about a complete study of all wildlife / fish above the dam. RE: the impacts of lowering water levels after all these years?

The normal weed beds are being destroyed for walleye & musky fishing.

Won't the flow rate vary depending on mother nature? Sometimes it'll be high, sometimes low.

The wild rice is taking over – they can't get their boat out and there's no water in their boat house

When will DNR spell out their priorities? RE: Sturgeon, walleyes, citizens, recreation rights, navigation, etc.

Too much water going over dam & water levels too low above.

Boathouses are filling up with sand at the channel areas. Especially the channel between Spider & Island Lakes, between Fawn & Clear Lakes. When the bridge was built (Fawn/Clear Lake) they didn't dredge the channel (DNR's fault)

Too much red tape to get things done.

DNR is not God!

What's the real reason? Quit skirting the issue! Don't do the same thing here as was done on Lake Nokomis.

All of a sudden sturgeon is a big issue – why?

Could red horse be eating the sturgeon spawn & causing the decline in sturgeon?

Water is too low, now stagnant – no ducks or walleyes (can't get to the spawning area). Also no muskies.

Property values are going down. Paying taxes on valuable property.

Lots of grass now growing where fish used to spawn. Also erosion on his shoreline. Have seen no otters this year – they've always been there in the past. (Spider Lake)

Law enforcement can't get to all the lakes – not good!

There's now little water left to drop so it will create more problems downstream. If they had left it alone it would have been better for the sturgeon.

Island Lake bay – ducks have no place to go. Eagle is confused. Wildlife is uprooted. Loons won't come back like they used to.

Don't think enough attention is being paid to the flowage. If the flowage is lowered further what does it mean for the river and the lakes?

Concerned about low water levels in Papoose bay & also wild rice restricting navigation.

Muskies normally spawn in their bay, now they can't get in there. They're worth more than sturgeons.

What affect has the Fish Trap dam modifications had on the flow to the Manitowish River?

Why haven't we just planted the sturgeon? Could get them from Wild Rose Hatchery.

Loon on Manitowish Lake with a baby on its back. Baby won't make it (too small). Thinks it's due to the low water that it re-nested. Wildlife upstream is affected as well. Also have weeds where they haven't been before. Are the lakes getting warmer due to the shallowness? Seeing more bass than before.

If I have to extend piers, I'll refuse to take them out again.

Please adequately sample all chain tributaries for effect on fish populations.

The LDF (Lac du Flambeau) reservation offered to give us walleye fry and was turned down. Why? Also, Lake Association tried to get this years ago and was turned down. It's to the point where it's ludicrous to fish.

Can the water go lower than the 42" that its been lowered too?

Water level too low during summer and negatively impacts habitat for juvenile fish.

Negative economic impact – lost an expensive prop due to low water.

Doesn't like this meeting format – wanted an open question / answer meeting. Also should have more meetings.

Island Lake – his bay is dry most of the summer. All wildlife within the bay is now gone / exhausted. Once was a thriving fish habitat- the fish are now gone. Turtles are all

gone. Muskrat, otter, beaver, frogs, are all gone. Ecological aspect of his bay is gone. Nothing there anymore. Wants water, not just weeds. Hopes this part is watched. Ecology has been harmed. Also concerned that he can still navigate. His investment is gone too (Both financial & personal).

Low water levels above dam are negatively impacting shoreline nesting birds / ie loons, ducks.

On Stone Lake – worried about shoreline habitat for wildlife, lack of water for boats & fishing.

The newer homes with 75 foot setback have large lawns and the fertilizer is being washed into the lakes promoting weed growth.

Concern about how low water levels affect the loons & other wildlife, also fish spawning.

What is the sturgeon issue? Has there actually been sturgeon spawning in the past? Why are they concerned now? When did the sturgeon decrease?

Why are sturgeon suddenly on the radar screen?

Why are we moving forward now – when there is a drought? Why can't we wait to do this when the drought is over?

No chain anymore. Can see the destruction. What brought this whole thing forward?

Needs access in late fall for fishing. Can't get in after October. Don't know why the have to draw it down at all. It's a selfish idea by the lake owners to not take their piers out. Leave the chain full all the time!

Too low water levels will really hurt this area financially.

Low water levels negatively affect spawning fish.

Negative impact economically if fisheries are depleted.

Watershed issue – aquatic wildlife community is affected all the way to the Chippewa River and all users must be considered!

What about high capacity wells to the south (Wausau/St. Point) are they affecting water levels here? How about all the shallow wells- will we run out of water soon?

During an open meeting the question was asked why now what precipitated this process: No answer was give & leads to mistrust of DNR.

Lives on the river – have never seen the river so low. If they would leave more water in the lakes over winter, they wouldn't have a problem with refilling.

Not true that river dwellers pay less taxes! It's all water frontage & all taxed the same.

Excel requires 30 cfm and DNR is letting out 70cfm.

Low water levels are affecting the aquatic plant life in & out of the water: specifically there are noxious weeds on the shoreline that were not present before.

Aquatic animal life, i.e. crayfish has changed. Crayfish population has almost disappeared in our area of Island Lake.

Alder Lake – lots more weeds then ever before – Cranberry marshes are pumping chemicals into the lakes too. DNR needs to look into this.

Used to be excellent panfishing now there's no fish – What's happening to them? Now these are weeds. Only 1 meal of fish in 6 years! Too thick of weeds to fish now. Worse every year.

Does DNR look at recreation in making these decisions? They will destroy property values on the Manitowish Chain.

With the water so low water skiers hit sandbars that didn't used to be there (were under water).

Damage to boat bottoms is another concern.

Can't they let the same amount of water go out that comes in? The chain shouldn't suffer and the downstream people benefit.

Island Lake – worried about loons & other wildlife and plants and how they're adjusting to the low levels.

Island Lake – Back Bay is dry. What happens to the wildlife? Why all the concern for downstream v.s. Lakes.

Real estate taxes based on ability to navigate entire chain. Need to keep chain access. Wild Rice Lake.

Negative economic of changing dam flow compared to past minimum flow management before analysis of operating order.

Why any changes before analysis when DNR said they will not make any changes before analysis?

Unsafe conditions for use of watercraft & using dock. Can't get into boat.

Why penalize people living on the chain for river flows? Rate of taxes on lake compared to chain.

Lower water levels & lower property values.

Why can't levels be altered during extreme conditions?

Hold more back in the fall, don't drop the levels so quickly, maintain higher winter level.

Failing to carry out responsibilities in response to a lower than normal lake level by making it worse by allowing (ordering) a more than normal flow of H₂O over the dam.

Safety – inability to board dock & boat from land.

Phase in change of fall / winter storage to allow people to react to potential impacts to piers.

Governor's statement about shoreline enhancement and tourism does not agree with what DNR is doing.

Raise water 1 inch per day in spring. Start earlier to catch snow-melt. Let water out 1 inch per day starting Oct 1. Less flooding downstream.

Lowering level to impact game fish (threaten & endanger) spawning areas -> How does that impact tourism (50% of the economy)?

Water level impacts on nesting ducks & loons.

Concern with lack of information now and public relations.

Affect on fish spawning – muskie, bluegills, crappie (river between Wild Rice & Alder).

How will not just lake level, but increased housing affect well levels (groundwater)?

Advertising wasted, would need to be revised.

Not only loss of own boat use, but not access by resort users -> loss of business, refunds of money.

Adaptive management of dam during low water conditions. Equal consideration of up & downstream

Would properties be reassessed if water lower?

Why is it just Manitowish Chain? Why not other chains (Political)?

Safety – Fire Department's rescue boat & fire fighting boat – no access.

Economically – fewer people, less business.

Affect of lower levels on wildlife (disappearance).

Pontoon boats, jet skis, ski boats.

Water levels impacted by pulling boards in July.

Woodies Marina: Loss of income with low water because not able to launch. No income from boat repairs. Early start to winterize boats before Colorama. Usually keep boats in for Colorama. Full impact known Dec 1st. Started before July 4th. Average boat ~ 19 foot ski behind.

Cost of moving boat lifts. Extending docks. What would happen if water level increased?

Labor from overseas (summer).

Can't travel from Fawn to Clear.

Low water levels & tree stumps.

Water levels tied to local community.

Is the inflow / outflow balanced?

Boat rentals & cancel reservations for Colorama. Ripple effect on other years.

Buying new boats.

The low water forces boating traffic to other lakes putting increased pressure on them.

Downstream lakes not low.

Can't fish the chain the same a previous years.

17 – 18 years ago water level down & boards stayed up until restored use of piers. Once in 55 years.

Fishing tournaments. Can't access the landings? Muskie classic.

Down-ward spiral of economic impacts.

Alternative choices with water & pattern set this year will already impact future summers. Vacation dollars lost associated with low water.

Tourism is #1 source of economic input.

Who benefits from \$ from loss of water going downstream?

Clarify who is benefiting from letting water flow downstream.

Taxes in escrow in December 2007.

Water not high enough to operate weed cutter. Papoose Bay – Rest Lake.

Moral obligation to protect ALL natural resources.

Endangered resources Papoose Creek & endangered resources.

Too much H2O downstream, not enough upstream.

Moratorium on releasing H2O from dam given public outcry.

Who besides DNR is endorsing this plan?

Why not a town hall meeting instead of this forum?

Will there actually be action, not just “listening”?

Work with Regional Planning Commission for description of socio-economic impacts.

Why increase river flow this year before analysis?

Potential of decreased water frontage in bays & channels. Lower property values.

Can't advertise as a 10-Lake chain. State of WI brochures. With lower summer water levels.

Use of gas when can't use boats.

Cost of dock extension. Damage to equipment.

Visual appearance of longer piers.

Low water & shallow well doesn't work. Alder & Wild Rice. Rest & Stone Channel.

How does this affect “high side” (6 inches) vs. “low side” (30 feet) of lake?

Oaks of White Harbor developed on the premise that water levels would not drop 459.8 during the summer.

Be sure that adequate studies are done by scientists and engineers to make an informed decision.

Is the loss of assessed value of property real or perceived?

Concerned about increased water in Turtle Flambeau Flowage flooding buildings.

Shallow water & changing plant species (increased density). What will happen next year?

Low water & frogs absent.

Impact to loon habitat.

Increased plant density & impact on spawning.

No people looking at purchasing property.

Potential reduced tax base.

Retirement assets impacted.

Cost to introduce sturgeon. Example Milwaukee.

Cost if boats can't be stored on the shoreline.

Cost \$3000 – \$5000 year if can't use a permanent pier (to replace).

Island & Manitowish & exposed archaeological sites.

Bought properties in high water and can't use in low water.

Fawn & Clear -> no access.

Loss of water levels with no notification.

- *There were a few comments recorded regarding Native American treaty rights that were deemed inappropriate and consequently, these comments are not included in this document.*
- *In addition to the public comments recorded above, comments were also submitted in writing and by email. These comments are public records that are available for inspection or copying. A fee may be required if a copy of the records is requested.*
- *For any questions about the public comments that have been received, please contact Jon Simonsen at: 715-365-8916, or by email Jonathan.Simonsen@Wisconsin.gov*